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Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda*

**Annual ministerial review: implementing the internationally
agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality
and empowerment of women**

**Statement submitted by Life Ethics Educational Association, a
non-governmental organization in consultative status with the
Economic and Social Council**

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2010/100.



Statement

At the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, the States Members of the United Nations agreed that sex-selective abortion is a form of violence and discrimination most acutely felt by the women of the world. Demographers estimate that as many as 100 million girls are missing because of sex-selective abortion and female infanticide. Because of prenatal sex selection, countless girls are denied the right to exist just because they are female. Even though Member States acknowledged the problem of sex-selected abortion, little has been done by the international community since Beijing to address this issue, despite its devastating demographic implications and the violation of the human rights of girls and women.

The practice of sex-selective abortion is a worldwide problem, not limited to any one country or region. Sex-selective abortion is a practice whereby parents choose to terminate a pregnancy because the unborn child is not of the desired sex. It is generally carried out against baby girls. The practice has led to unnatural gender imbalances in some countries, mostly in Asia. In some areas of China, for instance, as many as 150 boys are born for every 100 girls, creating a dramatic demographic crisis.

According to Nicholas Eberstadt of the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, sex-selective abortions have permanently skewed the demographic balance of China. Sex-selective abortions are also skewing the demographic balance of India, and have crept into Eastern Europe and Latin America.

We ask that the United Nations take measures to address this problem as part of its ongoing attempts to combat both violence and discrimination against women. A few countries have begun to realize the many negative long-term security, cultural and societal implications of disparate sex ratios on their populations.

We urge States to:

- Enact laws that explicitly ban the practices of sex-selective abortion and female infanticide and punish both doctors and parents that engage in such practices
- Rescind existing laws or regulations that give preferential treatment to sons
- Rescind any laws or regulations that restrict the ability of families to freely decide on the number of children they may have
- Conduct and maintain census data that accurately show the overall and child sex ratios of their populations
- Ban the practice of using technologies solely to determine the sex of unborn children
- Enact laws that prohibit abortion for sex selection.